

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 49-78 are pending in this application. Upon entry of the amendments proposed in the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, filed on July 15, 2003, claims 49, 50, 73, and 74 will be deleted without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 67-70, 75, 77, and 78 will be amended.

II. Remarks

In the Advisory Action dated August 19, 2003, the Examiner refused to enter the proposed amendments in the Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on July 15, 2003. See Advisory Action. Specifically, the Examiner opined that "[t]he addition of the proviso to exclude a certain film former to the claims would require the examiner to further consider and search the application." See Continuation Sheet of Advisory Action. Applicants respectfully disagree and request that the amendments proposed in the Amendment filed on July 15, 2003, be entered.

At page 2 of the final Office Action dated March 17, 2003, the Examiner indicated that claims 67-72 and 75-78 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, in the Amendment filed on July 15, 2003, claims 67, 68, 77, and 78 were **merely rewritten in independent form** including all of the limitations of the base claim and claims 69, 70, and 75 were **merely amended to change the dependencies** in order to correspond to the new independent claims 67, 68, 77, and 78.

As no proviso was added in the proposed amendments and as claims 67-70, 75, 77, and 78 were amended in accordance with the Examiner's statement of allowability,

Applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of amended claims 67-72 and 75-78.

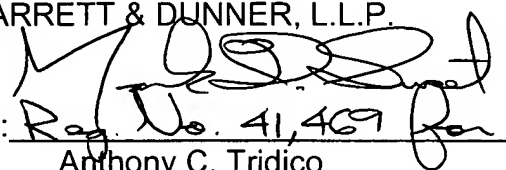
III. **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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